

Message

---

**From:** Bains, Susanna [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=1136AC940AEC4C4890F28DF698891023-BAINS, SUSA]  
**Sent:** 11/4/2019 3:09:04 PM  
**To:** Hesterlee, Craig [Hesterlee.Craig@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: ESA and incomplete permit application data

That would be great! Any info that she can send about the Kampachi ESA consultation would be very helpful.

Thanks,

Susanna Bains  
Water Permits Division  
Office of Wastewater Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
202-564-2047

---

**From:** Hesterlee, Craig <Hesterlee.Craig@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 01, 2019 4:19 PM  
**To:** Bains, Susanna <Bains.Susanna@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ESA and incomplete permit application data

Just sent you some stuff- Meghan will be back on Monday to get you ESA info regarding our Kampachi Farms application. We do ESA consultation for all permits that we issue. We just don't have a lot of permits in this Region.  
-Craig

---

**From:** Bains, Susanna <Bains.Susanna@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 4:09 PM  
**To:** Hesterlee, Craig <Hesterlee.Craig@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ESA and incomplete permit application data

Thanks Craig. And for ESA, there are no permits that are in the consultation process? How often does Region 4 do ESA consultation for NPDES permits?

Susanna Bains  
Water Permits Division  
Office of Wastewater Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
202-564-2047

---

**From:** Hesterlee, Craig <Hesterlee.Craig@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 3:56 PM  
**To:** Bains, Susanna <Bains.Susanna@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: ESA and incomplete permit application data

Susanna,

We have not received any new applications to evaluate for completeness during calendar year 2019. We have finalized a handful of tribal permits during 2019, none since this Spring. I am assuming that the Regions were expected to begin to collect these data starting July 2 per the email thread. Therefore Region 4 has no new data to report on these metrics.

Craig Hesterlee  
EPA Region IV Water Division  
NPDES Permitting Section  
404.562.9749

---

**From:** Bains, Susanna <[Bains.Susanna@epa.gov](mailto:Bains.Susanna@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 28, 2019 9:33 AM  
**To:** Murphy, Thelma (Hamilton) <[murphy.thelma@epa.gov](mailto:murphy.thelma@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Chris <[Thomas.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Chris@epa.gov)>; Hesterlee, Craig <[Hesterlee.Craig@epa.gov](mailto:Hesterlee.Craig@epa.gov)>; Jann, Stephen <[jann.stephen@epa.gov](mailto:jann.stephen@epa.gov)>; Martinez, Maria <[Martinez.Maria@epa.gov](mailto:Martinez.Maria@epa.gov)>; Larsen, Brent <[Larsen.Brent@epa.gov](mailto:Larsen.Brent@epa.gov)>; Curtis, Glenn <[curtis.glenn@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.glenn@epa.gov)>; Tien, Alysia <[Tien.Alysia@epa.gov](mailto:Tien.Alysia@epa.gov)>; Martinson, Mathew <[martinson.mathew@epa.gov](mailto:martinson.mathew@epa.gov)>; Poulsom, Susan <[Poulsom.Susan@epa.gov](mailto:Poulsom.Susan@epa.gov)>; DeJong, Stephanie <[DeJong.Stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:DeJong.Stephanie@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Weiss, Kevin <[Weiss.Kevin@epa.gov](mailto:Weiss.Kevin@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: ESA and incomplete permit application data

Good morning all,

This is a reminder to please send ESA and application completeness data, along with any feedback on your experience so far with using the tracking template that was provided. After we've received the data, we will follow up with any edits to the template based on feedback we receive. Kevin's previous requests for data are in the email chain below.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Thanks,

Susanna Bains  
Water Permits Division  
Office of Wastewater Management  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
202-564-2047

---

**From:** Weiss, Kevin <[Weiss.Kevin@epa.gov](mailto:Weiss.Kevin@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2019 12:43 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Thelma (Hamilton) <[murphy.thelma@epa.gov](mailto:murphy.thelma@epa.gov)>; Arcaya, Alyssa <[arcaya.alyssa@epa.gov](mailto:arcaya.alyssa@epa.gov)>; Martinsen, Jessica <[Martinsen.Jessica@epa.gov](mailto:Martinsen.Jessica@epa.gov)>; Price-Fay, Michelle <[Price-Fay.Michelle@epa.gov](mailto:Price-Fay.Michelle@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Chris <[Thomas.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Chris@epa.gov)>; Jann, Stephen <[jann.stephen@epa.gov](mailto:jann.stephen@epa.gov)>; Martinez, Maria <[Martinez.Maria@epa.gov](mailto:Martinez.Maria@epa.gov)>; Curtis, Glenn <[curtis.glenn@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.glenn@epa.gov)>; Tien, Alysia <[Tien.Alysia@epa.gov](mailto:Tien.Alysia@epa.gov)>; Marincola, Jamie <[Marincola.JamesPaul@epa.gov](mailto:Marincola.JamesPaul@epa.gov)>; Martinson, Mathew <[martinson.mathew@epa.gov](mailto:martinson.mathew@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bains, Susanna <[Bains.Susanna@epa.gov](mailto:Bains.Susanna@epa.gov)>; Gutierrez, Sally <[Gutierrez.Sally@epa.gov](mailto:Gutierrez.Sally@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** ESA and incomplete permit application data

In follow up to the email sent on July 2<sup>nd</sup> (see below), please send a copy of your Region's data on ESA consultations and incomplete permit applications by COB, Friday October 11. We would also like to hear your feedback on how the data collection process has been going and if you have had to make any adjustments to the original template that we sent out (attached).

Thanks!

Kevin

---

**From:** Weiss, Kevin <Weiss.Kevin@epa.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 02, 2019 5:19 PM

**To:** Murphy, Thelma (Hamilton) <murphy.thelma@epa.gov>; Arcaya, Alyssa <arcaya.alyssa@epa.gov>; Trulear, Brian <Trulear.Brian@epa.gov>; Thomas, Chris <Thomas.Chris@epa.gov>; Jann, Stephen <jann.stephen@epa.gov>; Martinez, Maria <Martinez.Maria@epa.gov>; Curtis, Glenn <curtis.glenn@epa.gov>; Miller, Johanna <Miller.Johanna@epa.gov>; Sablad, Elizabeth <Sablade.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Poulosom, Susan <Poulosom.Susan@epa.gov>; Blake, Ellen <Blake.Ellen@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Bains, Susanna <Bains.Susanna@epa.gov>; Gutierrez, Sally <Gutierrez.Sally@epa.gov>

**Subject:** ESA and incomplete permit application data elements

Thank you for reviewing the early version of attached file for tracking the data elements for the causes of incomplete permit applications and the steps associated with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) evaluation and review process. We have reviewed your comments and made some updates, including adding a new tab which provides instructions for filling out the tracker. **Please begin collecting data** – we plan on asking for a copy of your data on October 1 and every six months after that.

Both incomplete permit applications and ESA reviews have been identified as priority processes that are causing significant delays in the development and issuance of some NPDES permits. Additional data describing the ESA process is needed to better understand where key delays are occurring and identify steps we can take to streamline the process and reduce burdens on the Regions. Data on the causes of incomplete permit applications will help us target areas for additional assistance to permittees and perhaps to additional modifications to the instructions of the permit applications. In addition, data on incomplete permit applications may assist in the development of electronically submitted permit applications.

Thanks for your help with this.

Kevin

---

**From:** Weiss, Kevin

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 01, 2019 9:42 AM

**To:** Murphy, Thelma (Hamilton) <murphy.thelma@epa.gov>; Houlihan, Damien <houlihan.damien@epa.gov>; Arcaya, Alyssa <arcaya.alyssa@epa.gov>; Trulear, Brian <Trulear.Brian@epa.gov>; Thomas, Chris <Thomas.Chris@epa.gov>; Jann, Stephen <jann.stephen@epa.gov>; Pierard, Kevin <pierard.kevin@epa.gov>; Martinez, Maria <Martinez.Maria@epa.gov>; Curtis, Glenn <curtis.glenn@epa.gov>; Larsen, Brent <Larsen.Brent@epa.gov>; Rathbone, Colleen <Rathbone.Colleen@epa.gov>; Sablad, Elizabeth <Sablade.Elizabeth@epa.gov>; Lidgard, Michael <Lidgard.Michael@epa.gov>; Burgess, Karen <Burgess.Karen@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Clark, Jackie <Clark.Jackie@epa.gov>; Klinger, Adam <Klinger.Adam@epa.gov>; Bains, Susanna <Bains.Susanna@epa.gov>; Gutierrez, Sally <Gutierrez.Sally@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Tracking new data elements

Incomplete permit applications and Endanger Species Act (ESA) evaluations and review have been identified as priority processes that are causing significant delays in the development and issuance of some NPDES permits. At the March NPDES Branch Chiefs' meeting, we discussed the need for Regions to begin tracking data associated with ESA evaluations and reviews and with the causes of incomplete permit applications.

Additional data describing the ESA process is needed to better understand where key delays are occurring and identify steps we can take to streamline the process and reduce burdens on the Regions. While we expect that the revised permit applications that become effective on June 12 will reduce the rate of incomplete permit application submittals, data on the causes of incomplete permit applications (when the revised permit applications are used) will help us target areas for additional assistance to permittees and perhaps to additional modifications to the instructions of the permit

applications. In addition, data on incomplete permit applications may assist in the development of electronically submitted permit applications.

The attached file identifies the data elements in template form we are considering requesting the Regions to begin to collect. Please let me know by COB Monday, May 6 if you have any questions or suggestions on the draft data elements and/or templates.

Thanks

Kevin

Kevin Weiss / Chief, National Program Branch / Water Permits Division / Office of Water  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency / (202) 564-0742 / cell phone: (202) 480-4176 / [weiss.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:weiss.kevin@epa.gov)